

SENATOR **Nell Soto** 32nd Senatorial District

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Contact: Marty Uribes, Press Secretary
(916) 445-6868

SENATOR SOTO SAYS SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY PUBLIC WORKS DEPT. DRAGGING ITS HEELS ON WATER CLEANUP

San Bernardino – The County of San Bernardino's Public Works Department is not cooperating with efforts to clean up perchlorate contamination in the ground water bear the Mid Valley Landfill. Perchlorate contamination in the area has led to the closure of a number of drinking water wells, according to Senator Nell Soto (D-Pomona).

"The fact that there is rocket fuel in our groundwater is intolerable," says Senator Soto. "I want to encourage the county to move quickly and to work closely with us to identify possible sources of this contamination and take the necessary steps to clean it up. Although I am heartened by the fact that the County intends to test their property, they need to have the full involvement of the PTF and the Regional Water Quality Control Board in assuring that the testing is done in an objective manner and generates results that reflect the actual quality of the water near, on or around the landfill."

"Unfortunately, up to now, the County Public Works staff has not acted with a sense of urgency. It seems as if they are more interested in protecting themselves than in protecting the residents they are supposed to serve."

Senator Soto established the PTF several months ago because of growing evidence that perchlorate contamination is contaminating water wells in the West San Bernardino area. Water agencies in the Fontana, Colton and Rialto areas have discovered the chemical in some of their wells. Fontana Water Company has closed 7 of 30 wells that it relies on to supply drinking water to its customers.

"Without a clean, reliable water supply the health of our people and the health of our economy is in jeopardy," says Soto. "We must move now to protect our future."

The County has operated the Mid Valley Landfill for many years. Contamination from the landfill, in the form of volatile compounds like solvents and cleaners, has been found in the area's water supply in the past. In those cases, the County has worked with local water agencies to provide wellhead treatment.

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Capitol Office: State Capitol, Room 4066 • Sacramento, CA 95814-4906 • (916) 445-6868 • Fax (916) 445-0128
District Offices: 822 N. Euclid Avenue, Suite A • Ontario, CA 91762 • (909) 984-7741 • Fax (909) 984-6695
215 N. "D" Street, Suite 106 • San Bernardino, CA 92410 • (909) 381-3832 • Fax (909) 381-0739
505 S. Garey Avenue, Second Floor • Pomona, CA 91766 • (909) 469-9935 • Fax (909) 469-9206
Homepage: www.sen.ca.gov/soto • **E-Mail:** senator.soto@sen.ca.gov